Promotion of Research and Development in Electronics Industry

622. SHRI R. SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Department of Electronics has prepared a plan for the promotion of research and development in basic materials for the electronics industry;

(b) whether the Department has also set up a material development centre for specific components;

(c) whether it is a fact that pilot and demonstration plants for certain critical components have been set up which are being imported; and

(d) if so, what are the details thereof and the reasons for which efforts have not been made to manufacture all the components indigenously?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF OCEAN DEVELOPMENT, ATOMIC ENERGY, ELECTRONICS, AND SPACE (SHRI K. R NARAYANAN): (a) A plan for the promotion of research and development in basic materials for electronic industry is in the final stage of preparation

(b) to (d) Through various regulatory measures, Department of Electronics has been promoting indigenous manufacture of components by electronic industry. Only those materials and components for which industry has not come forward due to relatively small local demand but which are of strategic nature, have been identified for taking up for development and subsequent manufacture in pilot/demonstration plants. Electronic Materials Development Agency (EMDA) has been set up to implement major departmental projects

A pilot plant for the production of Beryllium Cooper with an annual capacity in excess of 10 tons has been commissioned with joint financing by Department of Electronics and Department of Space This material has applications in electronic connectors, relays, switches and other electromechanical components as also in space and defence.

Proposal to ban Communal Parties

623. SHRI R SAMBASIVA RAO: Will the Minister of LAW AND JUSTICE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that communal parties are contributing, directly or indirectly, a great deal to the communal tensions prevailing in different parts of the country;

(b) whether Government have under their consideration any proposal to ban communal parties under the electoral law of the country;

(c) whether Government propose to bring forward any comprehensive legislation for amending the electoral law so as to plug the loophohles contributing to electoral malpractices; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF LAW AND JUSTICE (SHRI H. R. BHARDWAJ): (a) Communal tensions occur due to a variety of reasons. It is difficult to pin point one single factor responsible for communal tensions.

(b) No such proposal is under the consideration of the Government. However, the Electoral Law, as it stands, contains suitable provisions for curbing any tendency to promote anmity or hatred on grounds of religion, caste, race, community or language in elections. The statute also regards such an act as an electoral offence and the person concerned shall be punishable with imprisonment which may extend to three years or with fine or with both. Further, the Model Code of Conduct

for the guidance of the political parties and candidates evolved by the Election Commission prohibits any appeal to caste or communal feelings for securing votes.

(c) and (d) The Election Commission has formulated several proposals for bringing about improvements in the electoral system and the laws, including steps for prevention of loopholes The question of bringing up a suitable legislation will arise after these proposals are discussed with the political parties and a final view is taken. Such discussions have not yet taken place.

Mid-term appraisal of Seventh Plan

624 SHRI KALPNATH RAI:
SHRIMATI SUDHA VIJAY JOSHI:

Will the Minister of PLANNING be pleased to state:

(a) whether a mid-term appraisal of the current Five Year Plan has been undertaken;

(b) if so, what are the findings of such appraisal;

(c) whether the targets of achievement in different fields and plan priorities are proposed to be suitably modified in view of increased allocation being made for flood relief and drought relief; and

(d) if so, details of the same?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINSTRY OF PLANNING AND THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINSTRY OF PROGRAMME IMPLEMENTATION (SHRI SUKH RAM) (a) The mid-term appraisal of the Seventh Five Year Plan is underway.

(b) to (d) Do not arise as yet in view of (a) above.

Negotiations held by the P.M. with the President of U.S.A.

625. SHRI B SATYANARAYAN REDDY: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state whether negotiations were held between the Prime Minister of India and the President of USA during his recent visit to USA and if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH): On the 20 October, 1987, Prime Minister discussed with President Reagan bilateral, regional, and international issues of mutual interest, aimed at enhancing understanding and cooperation between India and the United States

Pakistani demand to India for vacation of Siachen Glacier area

626 SHRI VIRENDRA VERMA:
SHRI J. P GOYAL:

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there have been fierce clashes between the Pakistani and Indian troops at the Siachen Glacier area and that the Pakistan Government has asked the Government of India to vacate the glacier area and to restore 1970 position: and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof, stating the casualties suffered by the Indian troops, if any, and the reaction of the Government of India with regard to the Pakistani demand?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF DEFENCE PRODUCTION AND SUPPLIES IN THE MINISTRY OF DEFENCE (SHRI SHIVRAJ PATIL): (a) and (b) Pakistani troops attacked our positions on the Saltoro Range in the Siachen Glacier area during the last week of September and, the first week of October. On both these